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There will be no Latin American Weekly Review *next week.*

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Latin America Division, Office of Regional and Political Analysis, with occasional contributions from other offices within the National Foreign Assessment Center and from other agencies within the Intelligence Community. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Human Rights Developments

Several Latin American countries have been discussing the traditional holiday season amnesty for internees, but only Honduras has announced that a large number of prisoners will be released.

Argentine authorities appear to have made a major blunder in handling the recent disappearance of 13 human rights demonstrators from the group known as the "Mad Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo." The government has denied that it is responsible and has blamed the kidnaping on the Montonero terrorists. The Montonero involvement has been largely discredited, however, by the fact that the demonstrators were viewed as being opposed to the government and inadvertent allies of the antigovernment forces. In addition, the scope of the abduction operation and the number of witnesses indicate it was not a terrorist act.

Navy Secretary General Admiral Fracassi, has given the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires some insight into the government's deliberations over human rights cases. Fracassi said that the Foreign Ministry has passed to the armed forces a list of 15 cases believed to be of interest to the US, with a view to determining what ameliorative action could be taken on political grounds. Although there is disagreement within the armed forces over what should be done, it is possible that amnesty could be granted in several of the cases, including that of Jacobo Timerman, the editor of *La Opinion*.

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